

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 78

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 4 MANILA 7799

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SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: TEXT OF SPEECH DELIVERED MAY 22

REF: MANILA 7791

FOLLOWING REMARKS WERE DELIVERED BY THE CHARGE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, PHILIPPINE DEPARTMENT, IN MANILA, MAY 22.

"GENERAL SANTOS, COLONEL ARGUELLES, FELLOW VETERANS AND LEIONEERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I AM PRIVILEGED BY MY CHARGE OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN THE PHILIPPINES AT THIS TIME TO HAVE THE HONOR TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TODAY IN BEHALF OF MY FELLOW AMERICAN CITIZENS.

OLD FRIENDS, MGA MATAGAL KONG KAIBIGAN, COMRADES, MGA KASAMA. THAT IS HOW I, AND MY COUNTRYMEN, REGARD YOU WHO HAVE SERVED AND SACRIFICED IN THIS LAND FOR THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR AMERICA.

IN A FEW DAYS AMERICANS WILL COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO DIED IN WAR BY OBSERVING MEMORIAL DAY. PRESIDENT CARTER IN HIS MEMORAL DAY MESSAGE HAS PROCLAIMED THAT:

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"THE GREATEST HONOR WE CAN PAY THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN OUR NATION'S DEFENSE IS TO SERVE THE IDEALS FOR WHICH THEY DIED. WE PROPERLY HONOR THESE MEN AND WOMEN ON MEMORAL DAY -- AS WE HONOR THOSE WHO FOUGHT AND LIVED, TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS."

IT IS WELL FOR WE WHO FOUGHT AND LIVED IN THOSE DARK DAYS

OF WORLD WAR II TO REMEMBER THAT WE FOUGHT NOT ONLY AGAINST THE ENEMY, BUT ALSO FOR OUR VERY FREEDOM, FOR A BETTER FUTURE AND FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OTHERS AS WELL AS OF OURSELVES.

MAY I ASK YOU THEN TO BOW YOUR HEADS IN A MINUTE OF SILENT REMEMBRANCE:

- FOR OUR COMRADES, BROTHERS, FATHERS, SONS
- WHO DIED IN BATTLE, HOSPITALS, PRISONS
- IN PAIN, FRUSTRATION, DESPAIR
- ON BATAAN, CORREGIDOR, NORMANDY AND THE RHINE, IN OUR COMMON DEFENSE.

THE ECONOMIC EMPHASIS

AS VETERANS OUR INTERESTS TRANSCEND NATIONAL BORDERS, ACCORDINGLY, I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU TODAY SOME OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EMPHASES OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER.

THE UNITED STATES HAS AN INTEREST IN PEACE, STABILITY AND INDEPENDENCE IN ASIA, IN AN ASIA WITH WHICH WE CAN COOPERATE, AND WHICH CAN COOPERATE WITHIN ITSELF, TO FACILITATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION.

- WE WILL REMAIN AN ASIAN/PACIFIC POWER.
- WE WILL PRESERVE A BALANCED AND FLEXIBLE SECURITY POSTURE IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC.

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- WE WILL MAINTAIN A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND PLAY AN APPROPRIATE ROLE HERE.

- WE ARE DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AND WILL WORK WITH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ASIA TO THAT END, AS WELL AS TO PROMOTE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

- WE ANTICIPATE CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND LOOK FORWARD TO ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS.

YOU WILL HAVE NOTED THE EMPHASIS OF ECONOMIC MATTERS. AND RIGHTLY SO. FOR WE DO BELIEVE THAT ECONOMIC, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD AND MOST PROBABLY WILL PLAY AN EVER-INCREASING ROLE IN OUR RELATIONS IN THE REGION AND WITH THE PHILIPPINES OVER THE NEXT DECADE. SUCH CONSIDERATIONS ALREADY ARE IMPORTANT, OF COURSE. FOR EXAMPLE, AMERICAN TRADE BOTH WAYS WITH ASIA IN 1976 TOTALED \$56.6 BILLION, SURPASSING THAT

WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS EMPHASIS

A NEW DIMENSION HAS BEEN ADDED BY THE EMPHASIS OF THE
CARTER ADMINISTRATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS EMPHASIS,
ASTONISHING TO MANY, DISTRESSING TO SOME, LONG OVERDUE TO
OTHERS, UNQUESTIONABLY IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN AMERICAN POLICY.

AS YOU KNOW, MUCH OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE FORMULATING
NATIONAL VALUES WAS ACCUMULATED IN THE EARLY YEARS WHEN THE
FOUNDING FATHERS, THAT REMARKABLE GROUP OF MEN, TOOK A PRINCIPLED
STAND FOR UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS. YOU REMEMBER IN THE
AMERICAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WHERE IT IS ASSERTED,
TO A WORLD OF SUBJECTS AND SLAVES, TO BE SELF-EVIDENT THAT ALL
MEN (JEFFERSON WASN'T SURE HE MEANT WOMEN TOO, BUT WE ARE),
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THAT ALL MEN ARE ENDOWED WITH INALIENABLE HUMAN RIGHTS, LIFE,
LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS, AND THAT THE JOB OF
GOVERNMENTS IS TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS. JEFFERSON A FEW DAYS
BEFORE HE DIED WROTE OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,
"MAY IT BE TO THE WORLD THAT I BELIEVE IT WILL BE: TO SOME
PARTS SOONER, TO OTHERS LATER, BUT FINALLY TO ALL: THE
SIGNAL OF AROUSING MEN TO BURST THE CHAINS." AN LINCOLN A FEW
DECADES LATER WHEN AMERICAN WAS DIVIDED, CONFUSED AND ABOUT
TO PLUNGE INTO CIVIL WAR, LINCOLN AS PRESIDENT-ELECT SAW,
"SOMETHING IN THE DECLARATION, SOMETHING GIVING LIBERTY NOT
ALONE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY BUT HOPE TO THE WORLD."

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EVERN SINCE, THE UNITED STATES HAS MOVED TOWARD THAT GOAL WITH INCREASING BENEFITS FOR AMERICANS, BUT WITH SOMETIMES A DECREASING SENSE OF PRACTICAL RELEVANCE FOR OTHER PEOPLES WITH DIFFERENT VALUES, CULTURAL PRIORITIES AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS. WE EVEN FOUND OURSELVES IN RECENT YEARS ASKING, ARE THE WORDS OF JEFFERSON AND LINCOLN PART OF OUR HERITAGE OR ARE THEY SIMPLY PART OF OUR HISTORY?

CHALLENGE

THEN FOUR MONTHS AGO ON AMERICAN PRESIDENT BEGIN HIS ADMINISTRATION WITH THE INAUGURAL PLEDGE THAT, "BECAUSE WE ARE FREE, WE CAN NEVER BE INDIFERENT TO THE FATE OF FREEDOM ELSEWHERE," AND THE ASSERTION THAT, "OUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS MUST BE ABSOLUTE...."

HIS SECRETARY OF STATE ELABORATED, "WE WILL SPEAK FRANKLY ABOUT INJUSTICE, BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD. WE DO NOT INTEND, HOWEVER, TO BE STRIDENT OR POLEMICAL. BUT WE DO BELIEVE THAT AN ABIDING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS A HUMAN VALUE OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE, AND THAT IT MUST BE NOURISHED."

THUS HAS BEGUN AN AMERICAN REDISCOVERY, REVIVAL, AND RE-ASSERTION AROUND THE WORLD OF VALUES DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE AMERICAN CULTURE. AS MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, CITIZENS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PHILIPPINES AND FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING SOME AMERICAN CITIZENS, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT, ALREADY MUCH ANALYZED IN INTERNATIONAL CHANCERIES, DEBATED IN THE UNITED NATIONS, DISCUSSED IN THE MEDIA AND ARGUED OVER BEER AT THE LOCAL BAR.

WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS? AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE ANSWERS THUSLY:

-- "FIRST, THERE IS THE RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM GOVERNMENTAL VIOLATION OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON. SUCH VIOLATIONS INCLUDE TORTURES; CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT; AND ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT. AND THEY INCLUDE DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL. AND INVASION OF THE HOME.

-- "SECOND, THERE IS THE RIGHT TO THE FULFILLMENT OF SUCH VITAL NEEDS AS FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE, AND EDUCATION. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE FULFILLMENT OF THIS RIGHT WILL DEPEND,

IN PART, UPON THE STAGE OF A NATION'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT THIS RIGHT CAN BE VIOLATED BY A GOVERNMENT'S ACTION OR INACTION -- FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGHT CORRUPT OFFICIAL PROCESSES WHICH DIVERT RESOURCES TO AN ELITE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE NEEDY, OR THROUGHT INDEFERENCE TO THE PLIGHT OF THE POOR.

-- "THIRD, THERE IS THE RIGHT TO ENJOY CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES -- FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, OF RELIGION, OF ASSEMBLY; FREEDOM OF SPEECH; FREEDOM OF THE PRESS; FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE ONE'S OWN COUNTRY; FREEDOM TO TAKE PART IN GOVERNMENT."

OUR POLICY IS TO PROMOTE ALL THESE RIGHTS, BUT HOW DO WE EFFECTIVELY DO SO? PRESIDENT CARTER, WHEN STILL A CANDIDATE, ADDRESSED THIS QUESTION AS FOLLOWS: "THERE ARE PRACTICAL, EFFECTIVE WAYS IN WHICH OUR POWER CAN BE USED TO ALLEVIATE UNCLASSIFIED

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HUMAN SUFFERING AROUND THE WORLD. WE SHOULD BEGIN BY HAVING IT UNDERSTOOD THAT IF ANY NATION, WHATEVER ITS POLITICAL SYSTEM, DEPRIVES ITS PEOPLE OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, THAT FACT WILL HELP SHAPE OUR PEOPLE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THAT NATION'S GOVERNMENT. IF OTHER NATIONS WANT OUR FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT, THEY MUST UNDERSTAND THAT WE WANT TO SEE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS RESPECTED. OUR PEOPLE IS NOT UNLIMITED, BUT NEITHER IT IS INSIGNIFICANT. IF WE ARE SENSITIVE AND IF WE ARE CONCERNED, THERE CAN BE MANY INSTANCES WHEN OUR POWER CAN MAKE A CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE TO THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF OPPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD. WE MUST BE REALISTIC. ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE DEEPLY IN OUR OWN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, IN OUR OWN IDEALS, WE DO NOT AND SHOULD NOT INSIST ON IDENTICAL STANDARDS OR IDENTICAL SYSTEMS IN ALL OTHER NATIONS. WE CAN LIVE WITH DIVERSITY IN GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEMS, BUT WE CANNOT LOOK AWAY WHEN A GOVERNMENT TORTURES PEOPLE, OR JAILS THEM FOR THEIR BELIEFS, OR DENIES MINORITIES FAIR TREATMENT OR THE RIGHT TO EMIGRATE."

WHAT ABOUT NATIONAL SECURITY? WE RECOGNIZE THAT CONTRADICTIONS MAY ARISE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY WHEN OUR SECURITY IS LINKED TO THAT OF COUNTRIES WHOSE HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIES ARE DEFICIENT. IN SUCH CASES IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS RENDERED TO MAINTAIN OR ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, NOT TO STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF A RE-PRESSIVE REGIME, ALTHOUGH WE MUST FACE UP TO THAT AS AN UN-DESIRED AND UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE IN CERTAIN CASES. "I KNOW OF NO AREA," SECRETARY VANCE SAID, "WHERE IT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO STRIKE THE APPROPRIATE BALANCE."

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN

DEVELOPING A SERIES OF QUESTIONS BY WHICH TO CHART THE DIRECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND PROGRESS. IN EACH INSTANCE, SECRETARY VANCE HAS STATED, WE WILL CONSIDER THESE QUESTIONS AS WE DETERMINE WHETHER AND HOW TO ACT.

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-- "FIRST, WE WILL ASK OURSELVES, WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE CASE THAT CONFRONTS US? FOR EXMPPLE, WHAT KIND OF VIOLATIONS OR DEPRIVATIONS ARE THERE? WHAT IS THEIR EXTENT? IS THERE A PATTERN TO THE VIOLATIONS? IF SO, IS THE TREND TOWARD CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OR AWAY FROM IT? WHAT IS THE DEGREE OF CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT INVOLVED? AND, FINALLY, IS THE GOVERNMENT WILLING TO PERMIT INDEPENDENT, OUTSIDE INVESTIGATION?

-- "A SECOND SET OF QUESTIONS CONCERNS THE PROSPECTS FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION. WILL OUR ACTION BE USEFUL IN PROMOTING THE OVERALL CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS? WILL IT ACTUALLY IMPROVE THE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS AT HAND? OR WILL IT BE LIKELY TO MAKE THINGS WORSE INSTEAD? IS THE COUNTRY INVOLVED RECEPTIVE TO OUR INTEREST AND EFFORTS? WILL OTHERS WORK WITH US, INCLUDING OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO FURTHERING HUMAN RIGHTS? FINALLY DOES OUR SENSE OF VALUES AND DECENCY DEMAND THAT WE SPEAK OUT OR TAKE ACTION ANYWAY, EVEN THOUGH THERE IS ONLY A REMOTE CHANCE OF MAKING OUR INFLUENCE FELT?

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-- "WE WILL ASK A THIRD SET OF QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN

A SENSE OF PERSPECTIVE. HAVE WE STEERED AWAY FROM THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS AND STRIDENT, REMEMBERING THAT OUR OWN RECORD IS NOT UNBLEMISHED? HAVE WE BEEN SENSITIVE TO GENUINE SECURITY INTERESTS, REALIZING THAT OUTBREAK OF ARMED CONFLICT OR TERRORISM COULD IN ITSELF POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, HAVE WE CONSIDERED ALL THE RIGHTS AT STAKE? IF, FOR INSTANCE, WE REDUCE AID TO A GOVERNMENT WHICH VIOLATES THE POLITICAL RIGHTS OF ITS CITIZENS, DO WE NOT RISK PENALIZING THE HUNGRY AND POOR WHO BEAR NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ABUSE OF THEIR GOVERNMENT?

"IF WE ARE DETERMINED TO ACT," SECRETARY VANCE CONTINUED, "THE MEANS AVAILABLE RANGE FROM QUIET DIPLOMACY IN ITS MANY FORMS THROUGH PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS TO WITHHOLDING OF ASSISTANCE. WHENEVER POSSIBLE, WE WILL USE POSITIVE STEPS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND INDUCEMENT. OUR STRONG SUPPORT WILL GO TO COUNTRIES THAT ARE WORKING TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN CONDITION. WE WILL ALWAYS TRY TO ACT IN CONCERT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES THROUGH INTERNATIONAL BODIES. IN THE END A DECISION WHETHER AND HOW TO ACT IN THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS A MATTER FOR INFORMED AND CAREFUL JUDGEMENT. NO MECHANISTIC FORMULA PRODUCES AN AUTOMATIC ANSWER.

"IT IS NOT OUR PURPOSE TO INTERVENE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT AS PRESIDENT CARTER HAS EMPHASIZED, NO MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS CAN CLAIM THAT VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONALLY PROTECTED HUMAN RIGHTS IS SOLELY ITS OWN AFFAIR. UNCLASSIFIED

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IT IS OUR PURPOSE TO SHAPE OUR POLICIES IN ACCORD WITH OUR BELIEFS AND TO STATE THEM WITHOUT STRIDENCY OR APOLOGY WHEN WE THINK IT IS DESIRABLE TO DO SO. OUR POLICY IS TO BE APPLIED WITHIN OUR OWN SOCIETY AS WELL AS ABROAD. WE WELCOME CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM AT THE SAME TIME AS WE OFFER IT."

THERE ARE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS HERE IN SEARCH OF PRACTICAL ANSWERS, BUT THE GENERAL COURSE IS FIRMLY SET, AND THE UNDERTAKING TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND HIS PRINCIPAL FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR SPEAK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WITH THE SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AS MEASURED IN RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLLS AND AS REFLECTED IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS. FOR EXAMPLE, CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF, DEMOCRAT OF NEW YORK, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE ASIAN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE, RECENTLY IN MANILA FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS AND SENIOR PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, STATED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT CARTER "HAS TAKEN A REALLY MAGNIFICENT POSITION IN RAISING THE LEVEL OF INTEREST IN THE MORAL PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE THE WORLD. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE ECONOMIC PROGRESS. PROGRESS MUST BE MADE AS WELL FOR THE INDIVIDUAL IN OUR SOCIETY, OTHERWISE

SOCIETY IS MEANINGLESS."

RESPONSE

NOT EVERYBODY IS HAPPY WITH THIS DECIDED NOTE OF MORALITY IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. BUT THUS FAR IT SEEMS TO BE CRITICIZED LARGELY BY THE RIGHT PEOPLE.

ACCORDING TO "BARRON'S" IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "MR. CARTER'S INSISTANCE ON SPEAKING FORTHRIGHTLY ON THIS PARTICULAR SUBJECT HAS UPSET SUCH FOREIGN POWERS AS THE RUSSIANS, THE GUATEMALANS, AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT,"
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THE SOVIET ARE MOST UPSET

-- NOT WITHSTANDING EFFORTS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO BE SELECTIVE IN CALLING ATTENTION TO EGREGIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS DERELICTIONS, AND

-- NOT WITHSTANDING STANDARD SOVIET PRACTICE OF CONDUCTING RELATIONS HOT AND COLD SIMULTANEOUSLY AT SEVERAL LEVELS TO FACILITATE TACTICAL FLEXIBILITY.

CLEARLY, THE SOVIETS, INFLUENCED BY YEARS OF DE FACTO "IMMUNITY" ARE WORRIED ABOUT THEIR DETENTE PARTNER'S RECOMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY TERM IT UNACCEPTABLE INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

BUT, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS MADE IT PLAIN THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO CURB HIS CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ABROAD DESPITE SHARP NEGATIVE REACTION FROM THE KREMLIN. AS WHITE HOUSE SPOESMAN POWELL PUT IT, "WE DO NOT FEAR OPEN DEBATE ON THE PRINCIPLES WHICH GOVERN OUR RESPECTIVE SOCIETIES BEFORE THE COURT OF WORLD OPINION." THIS IS A KIND OF STRAIGHT TALK THAT I WOULD EXPECT TO BE APPRECIATED IN THIS ROOM, AND TO BE UNDERSTOOD IN THE KREMLIN.

UNQUESTIONABLY HUMAN RIGHTS DO TRANSCEND NATIONAL BOUNDARIES, THEREFORE IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN CARPING ABOUT THE FAILURES OF OTHERS. SECRETARY VANCE HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE POSITIVE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYWHERE, MOST PARTICULARLY BY EXAMPLE. WE ARE NOT TRYING TO TELL OTHER PEOPLE WHAT TO DO; WE ARE INTERESTED IN EXPLAINING AND DEFENDING OURSELVES AND IN INSPIRING AND PERSUADING OTHERS. WE DO BELIEVE IN THE VALIDITY OF DISAGREEMENT, EXPRESSED SOBERLY, RESPONSIBLY AND IN THE PROPER PLACES. INDEED THE RIGHT OF CRITICISM IS PART OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS WE SEEK TO

ADVANCE. FOR WHAT IS DISCUSSION IF PEOPLE CANNOT DISCUSS THE
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THINGS THAT THEY DISAGREE ABOUT, WHILE SEEKING WAYS IN WHICH
TO COOPERATE ON THE THINGS THEY DO AGREE ABOUT.

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CLOSER TO WHERE WE LIVE THIS AMERICAN EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
APPEARS INITIALLY TO HAVE BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD IN THE PHILIPPINES,
PARTICULARY THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT TO THE AMERICAN
CONGRESS ON THE SUBJECT, HOWEVER, I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO TWO
STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY ROMULO IN A SPEECH IN HONG KONG MARCH 28.

-- "IF THE REPORT ON THE PHILIPPINES IS READ CAREFULLY AND
AS A WHOLE, IT WILL BE SEEN TO BE A REASONABLY FAIR, SOBER,
AND EMINENTLY FACTUAL REVIEW OF THE SO-CALLED 'HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION' IN THE PHILIPPINES,"

-- "NEED I REMIND YOU THAT WHEN THE WIRE STORIES ON THIS
REPORT WERE RECEIVED IN MANILA, PRESIDENT MARCOS PUBLICLY
ORDERED THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL 'POLITICAL PRISONERS'
-- SO CALLED -- WHO WERE NOT FACING CRIMINAL CHARGES."

EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, PRESIDENT MARCOS IN HIS ADDRESS
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ASIAN
DEVELOPMENT BANK IN MANILA ON APRIL 21 STATED:

"IN MANY OF OUR COUNTRIES, THERE IS GREAT URGENCY TODAY FOR
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO AFFIRM AND GIVEN REAL SUBSTANCE TO OUR

AVOWALS IN FAVOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS. OUR COUNTRY, OUR PEOPLE,
OUR GOVERNMENT AND, MYSELF, ARE DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE PROTECTION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WITHOUT ANY CONCRETE EFFORT TO PROVIDE FOR BASIC
NEEDS, AND THE MINIMUM OF HUMAN WELFARE, OUR COMMITMENT TO
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HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD BECOME HOWEVER A FARCE. BUT WE CANNOT PROCURE
OUR DEVELOPMENT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE RIGHTS OF THOSE WHOM WE
ARE, IN THE FIRST PLACE, PLEDGED TO LIBERATE.

"THERE CAN BE NO TRADE-OFF OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT.

"OUR NATIONS MUST CLEARLY MOVE IN BOTH DIRECTIONS,
COMMITTED TO THEIR ATTAINMENT. AND THIS WE MUST LEARN TO DO,
NOT INDIVIDUALLY OR ALONE BUT IN CONCERT."

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES SHARES THE SENTIMENTS
OF THAT ELOQUENT STATEMENT AND IS PREPARED TO MOVE IN CONCERT
WITH THE PHILIPPINES AND WITH OTHER NATIONS IN THE CAUSE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME AND ABROAD. THE UNITED NATIONS IS CENTRAL
TO THIS COOPERATIVE EFFORT. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ALSO CAN
PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE. THE UNITED STATES IS SEEKING INCREASED
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER NATIONS FOR JOINT PROGRAMS. THE
UNITED STATES LOOKS TO THE USE OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, WHETHER
BILATERAL OR THROUGH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS,
AND TO THE USE OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE AS A MEANS TO FOSTER
BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS.

CONCLUSION

THUS, WE ARE ALL CHALLENGED, INDIVIDUALLY, NATIONALLY,
AND INTERNATIONALLY TO LIVE UP TO MAN'S MORAL PROMISE WHILE
CONCURRENTLY FULFILLING OUR PRACTICAL NEEDS IN AN IMPERFECT
WORLD. OUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD
AS A POLICY OF FLUFFY IDEALISM OR MERE CONVENIENCE. OUR OWN
SENSE OF COHESION, PURPOSE AND ETHICAL VALUE ARE STRENGTHENED
BY ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS. THAT COMMITMENT HELPS:

-- TO SUSTAIN AN IMAGE OF WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT.

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-- TO COOPERATE CLOSELY AMONG SOCIETIES THAT SHARE SIMILAR
VALUES, AND

-- TO SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHER STATES AND PEOPLES.

AS PRESIDENT CARTER RECENTLY STATED, "HUMAN RIGHTS IS NOT A
POLITICAL TACTIC, IT'S A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE."

MOREOVER, GOVERNMENTS WHICH TODAY OBJECT MAY TOMORROW
SUPPORT, AND TO PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WHO YEARN FOR FREEDOM AND
HUMAN RIGHTS, HOPE IS SUSTAINED -- THE HOPE LINCOLN AND JEFFERSON
SPOKE OF, A HOPE WE FULFILL WHEN OUR ACTIONS REFLECT WHAT
WE STAND FOR.

WE SHALL BE CRITICIZED NO MATTER WHAT WE DO. WE MIGHT AS
WELL BE CRITICIZED FOR REMEMBERING OUR HERITAGE, FOR REMEMBER-
ING WHAT WE BELIEVE IN, FOR REMEMBERING WHAT OTHERS HAVE DIED FOR.

AND WE DO REMEMBER,
FRIENDS AND COMRADES,
WE DO REMEMBER.
MGA KASAMA, MGA MATAL KONG KAIBIGAN
THANK YOU.
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Message Attributes

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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770528/aaaaaylw.tel
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 40bcfb8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Reference: 77 MANILA 7791
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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